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THE FAMILY HISTORIES ISSUED IN THIS
VOLUME ARE PREPARED FOR PUBLI-
CATION IN "GENEALOGICAL AND
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS OF
AMERICAN FAMILIES"
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HARTFORD

CONNECTICUT

Each one of us is 'the heir of all the ages, in the foremost files of time'. We build upon the solid foundations laid by the strenuous efforts of the fathers who have gone before us. Nothing is more fitting, and indeed more important than that we should familiarize ourselves with their work and personality; for it is they who have lifted us up to the lofty positions from which we are working out our separate careers. 'Lest we forget,' it is important that we gather up the fleeting memories of the past and give them permanent record in well chosen words of biography, and in such reproduction of the long lost faces as modern science makes possible.

Privately Printed

Dedication ✓

In Devoted Memory

of

Jerome Stuart Chaffee, M.D.

1873 - 1947



And in tribute to the notable ancestry whose strength
and virtues were his inheritance, this volume
is inscribed and dedicated by his wife

Grace Dutcher Ketcham Chaffee



Chaffee

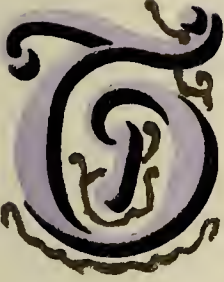
Arms: Party per pale gules and azure, a griffin segreant argent, on a chief engrailed ermine, three lozenges of the second.

Crest: On a wreath of the colours, upon a mount vert, between two branches of palm, a peacock in his pride, all proper.

Motto: Fide et fiducia.

(Arms in possession of the family.)

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HOMAS CHAFFEE, immigrant ancestor of the line hereinafter followed, is first mentioned in Colonial records of 1635 in Hingham, Massachusetts, where he was a land owner in that year. The names of his parents and the place and date of his birth are not known. He died between July 25, 1680, the date of his will and May 15, 1683, the date on which the inventory of his estate was filed.

Thomas Chaffee received several grants of land in Hingham and in 1642 is listed as a planter of Nantasket, which later became Hull. He moved from Hull about 1657 and settled in that part of Rehoboth then known as Wannamoisett in Plymouth Colony, where he is listed as a proprietor in 1660. When Swansea was set off as a separate community from Rehoboth in 1668 his land came within the limits of the new town. During King Philip's war the inhabitants took refuge in a stone building, known as "Chaffee's Garrison" which stood near his home and on his land.

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The name of his wife is unknown.

JOSEPH CHAFFEE, son of Thomas Chaffee, was born probably in Hull about 1640 and died in Swansea, October 28, 1694. He was a proprietor of Swansea where he served as highway surveyor in 1673 and 1689. His will is dated September 22, 1694, and the inventory of his estate was filed November 13, 1694.

He married in Swansea, December 8, 1670, Annis Martin, daughter of Richard Martin of Rehoboth. She died in Barrington, Rhode Island, in 1729.

JOHN CHAFFEE, son of Joseph and Annis (Martin) Chaffee, was born in Swansea, December 16, 1673, and died in Woodstock, Connecticut, December 2, 1757. He inherited land in Swansea where he was active and prominent in community affairs and served at various times as constable, fence viewer, surveyor of highways and grand juror. He was also one of the signers of a petition presented to the Governor of the Colony in 1725 which resulted in the town of Barrington, Rhode Island, being set off from the town

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of Swansea. He moved to Woodstock, Connecticut, about 1728 where he purchased land and lived until his death. His will is dated August 29, 1754.

John Chaffee married (first) in Swansea, July 17, 1700, Sarah Hills, daughter of Gershom and Elizabeth (Chadwick) Hills of Malden, Massachusetts. She died in Woodstock, April 7, 1735. He married (second) in Ashford, Connecticut, November 4, 1735, Elizabeth Hayward. She was born in 1673 and died in Woodstock, February 5, 1760.

JOEL CHAFFEE, son of John and Sarah (Hills) Chaffee, was born in Swansea in 1702 and died in Woodstock, June 20, 1745. He was a cordwainer in Barrington until 1733 when he moved to Woodstock. The records show that he bought and sold large tracts of land in Barrington, Woodstock and Ashford and that he was a partner in a Land Bank in 1740. He was one of the signers of a petition to the General Court in 1742 that Woodstock be incorporated as a separate town.

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He married Elizabeth Bicknell, daughter of Thomas Bicknell of Middleborough, Massachusetts.

JOSHUA CHAFFEE, son of Joel and Elizabeth (Bicknell) Chaffee, was born in Rehoboth, May 26, 1731, and died in Ellsworth, Connecticut, October 9, 1789. He was a farmer and came to Sharon, Connecticut, about 1755 where he purchased land from his father-in-law. He was a soldier in the Revolution and served in Captain Eliphalet Holmes' company of minute men of East Haddam, Connecticut. He was made a freeman in Sharon, October 16, 1777, and his will is dated February 14, 1787.

He married in Sharon, July 2, 1755, Mary St. John, daughter of Matthew St. John, Jr. She was born September 25, 1739, and died August 28, 1829.

JOSHUA BIGNALL CHAFFEE, son of Joshua and Mary (St. John) Chaffee, was born in Sharon, March 8, 1781, and died in Ellsworth, March 11, 1832. He was a farmer and served as selectman and justice of the peace in Sharon. He married (first) in Ellsworth, June 4, 1809, Anna Seymour, daughter of Deacon

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Amos and Sarah (Cook) Seymour. She was born in 1788 and died in Ellsworth, June 4, 1819. He married (second), December 25, 1820, Hannah Birdsey, daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Bell) Birdsey. She was born in Cornwall, Connecticut, September 29, 1791, and died August 28, 1886.

JEROME SEYMOUR CHAFFEE, son of Joshua Bignall and Anna (Seymour) Chaffee, was born in Ellsworth, December 14, 1814, and died in Leedsville, New York, February 28, 1906. He came to Amenia, New York, when he was about twenty years old and became one of the town's most prominent and influential citizens, holding many public offices of trust and responsibility. After more than forty years residence in Amenia he moved to Leedsville, where he was engaged in the grain and feed business and also operated one of the finest farms in that vicinity.

He married (first) in Kent, Connecticut, October 24, 1839, Aritta Laura Stuart, daughter of James and Melinda (Berry) Stuart. She was born in Kent, December 15, 1812, and died in Amenia, November

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26, 1872. He married (second) in Sharon, June 8, 1876, Adelia Emma Fuller, daughter of Cyrus Hackett and Harriet (Skiff) Fuller. She was born March 13, 1841, and died May 8, 1916.

JAMES STUART CHAFFEE, son of Jerome Seymour and Aritta Laura (Stuart) Chaffee, was born in Sharon, October 3, 1846, and died March 30, 1925. He was educated in the public schools and at Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, and spent part of his youth on farms in North Dakota. He returned east about 1865 and settled in Amenia, where he engaged in dairy farming and eventually became the owner of two hundred and fifty acres of land. He also operated a large grain and feed business in partnership with William H. Tanner under the firm name of Tanner & Chaffee. He was a prosperous and successful farmer and merchant and served as a director of the First National Bank of Amenia and as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Dutchess county in 1893, 1896 and 1897. He was justice of the peace for more than twenty years.



J. S. Chappee

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James Stuart Chaffee married in Kent, Connecticut, September 17, 1872, Lydia Ann Judd, daughter of Edward Matthew and Laura (Cartwright) Judd. She was born in Kent, December 16, 1850, and died October 26, 1944.

DOCTOR JEROME STUART CHAFFEE, son of James Stuart and Lydia Ann (Judd) Chaffee, was born in Amenia, November 11, 1873, and died in Sharon, November 26, 1947. He received his preliminary education at the Amenia Seminary and prepared for college at Wilbraham Academy, graduating in 1891. He then entered the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University and graduated in 1894 with the degree of Ph.B. Having decided upon a career in medicine he matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine from where he received his degree of M.D. in 1897 and then served internships first in Saint Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia and later in the Cooper Hospital in Camden, New Jersey.

Upon the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he was appointed surgeon at the Naval Hospital in

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Brooklyn and served with the Asiatic fleet under Admiral Dewey in the famous battle of Manilla Bay. He was very fond of the Navy and reluctantly gave up a Naval career because of an ear condition which made it impossible for him to attend to his duties when at sea. On advice of his superior officers he resigned in 1899 and was immediately commissioned in the United States Army as assistant surgeon with the rank of First Lieutenant. He was stationed at various Army posts, first in Columbus, Ohio, and later at the United States Army Medical School in Washington, D. C., where he studied under the famous and eminent doctors Major Walter Reed and Major James Carroll and later at Army-Navy Hospitals in Hot Springs, Arkansas; Plattsburg, New York and Fort Porter, Buffalo, New York.

In 1903 Dr. Chaffee resigned his commission in order to enter general practice in Sharon, Connecticut, where he remained the rest of his life and became the leading physician of his day. His knowledge and skill were soon recognized and his understanding and sympathetic disposition made him the beloved family

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doctor to the many patients who came to him from all the surrounding towns.

As his practice increased Dr. Chaffee clearly foresaw the need for a hospital to care for patients in his own community as well as from the surrounding country, and in 1909 he became the founder of the now well-known Sharon Hospital which under his able management has grown from a mere medical dispensary in a small cottage to an institution with forty beds, equipped with all modern facilities and operated on a non-profit basis, approved by the American College of Surgeons.

The Sharon Hospital stands as a monument to Dr. Chaffee's keen foresight, his great capacity for organization, his unselfish service and his love for his profession and his fellow man. The following resolutions, quoted in full, are indicative of the affection and high regard in which Dr. Chaffee was held by his associates.

"The Trustees of The Sharon Hospital hereby record their deep sense of irreparable loss in the death of Dr. Jerome Stuart Chaffee, founder of

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the hospital and for thirty-eight years its chief of staff and its President. They are profoundly grateful for the vision which led Dr. Chaffee to the creation of the institution which for almost four decades has ministered to the sick of the communities in and near the Township of Sharon and are happy to recognize the years of labor which he devoted to the organization and administration of this country hospital. The Trustees are resolved that The Sharon Hospital, a living memorial to an eminent physician who served his community and hospital well, will continue to make manifest in its service of teaching the ideals and objectives of Dr. Chaffee.

"The Trustees realize how grievous is the loss which Mrs. Chaffee suffers. With love they share the sorrow of the final separation, and to her they offer their heart-felt sympathy. It is the hope of the Board of Trustees that Mrs. Chaffee will find consolation in the gratitude of the Board to Dr. Chaffee and in the gratitude of the thousands of patients to whom the hospital has been able to give care because Dr. Chaffee, in anticipation of their need, made provision for them in The Sharon Hospital.

* * *

"In the death of Jerome Stuart Chaffee on

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November 26, 1947, the members of the staff of The Sharon Hospital have lost an honored colleague. He had eyes that saw visions and a mind that dreamed dreams, and so the idea of a hospital in this community was conceived. Dreams were not his master, and the drive to accomplishment was in him, and so, in the face of all the difficulties thrown in his way by those of little faith, the Sharon Hospital became a reality. It was his only child, and as such the greatest source of pride and irritation of his life. No detail of its management was beneath his notice, and yet no red tape was permitted to entangle its smoothly running machinery. He bore the burden of financing, building, and management now shared by many and created a hospital second to none in essential equipment and esprit de corps uniting the medical profession of six towns into an ideal working unit. His abilities were many and his accomplishments of a greater magnitude than are granted to most men. Physician, soldier, financier, builder, executive, fisherman and inimitable companion, we salute his leadership even as we mourn his loss."

The following tribute, written by Dr. G. S. Gudernatch of Sharon, appeared in the Connecticut State Medical Journal:

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"Dr. Jerome Stuart Chaffee, a former president of our County Society, died at the age of 74 at his home in Sharon on November 26, 1947, after a lingering illness. He was born in Amenia, New York, the oldest child of the union of Lydia Judd of Kent and James Stuart Chaffee, and the first of his family to be born outside of Sharon in three generations. He prepared for college at Wilbraham Academy, and graduated from Yale, the Sheffield Scientific School, in 1894, and from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1897. There he was a founder and President of Nu Sigma fraternity. In the Spanish-American War, he served as an ensign in the Navy under Admiral Dewey in the insurrection of the Philippines, and did shore duty under General McArthur, Sr. He later enlisted in the Army and was graduated from the Army Medical School in Washington, D. C., in 1902, studying there under Reed and Carroll.

"From 1903 on, Dr. Chaffee practiced in Sharon, where he organized the Sharon Hospital in 1909 and laid the cornerstone for the present plant in 1915, now a living memorial to his many years of faithful service to his community. From the beginning, he was Chief of the Medical Staff and Secretary-Treasurer and later President of the Board, and remained so during his lifetime.

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Dr. Chaffee was a member of the American College of Surgeons and also of the Medical Society of the State of New York, the latter recently honoring him on the occasion of being fifty years a physician. He served as Health Officer, Medical Examiner, and New York Central Railroad Surgeon for over forty years. He was a member of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, the Litchfield County University Club and the Yale Club of New York City.

“Dr. Chaffee leaves his widow, Grace Ketcham Chaffee, with whom we join in sorrow at the loss of so kind a friend and great a public servant. He had no children and gave his heart completely to the hospital which he fathered for so many years, and which, as children do, brought him both joys and sorrows. The people of Sharon have lost an honored man, and in their mourning, have named the original hospital building the Jerome Stuart Memorial Pavillion in its present expansion program, the completion of which he was unable to see.”

Dr. Chaffee served his community as health officer and medical examiner from 1905 until his death and was for many years surgeon for the New York Central Railroad. He was a member of the Medical Reserve

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Corps and a Captain in the Connecticut National Guard. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the Litchfield County Medical Society, the Connecticut State Medical Society, the Dutchess County, New York, Medical Society, the Military Order of Foreign Wars and president of The Sharon Hospital Association. His clubs included the Yale Club of New York City, the Amrita Club, the University Club of Litchfield County, the Sharon and Litchfield County Country Clubs and the Nu Sigma Nu fraternity.

Dr. Jerome Stuart Chaffee married, November 7, 1900, Grace Dutcher Ketcham. No children.



